authorities and the United States India Business Council at Washington; and

(c) if so, the outcome therefore?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The issue of piracy of Indian films was discussed at a meeting of members of the Indian delegation with Mr. Jack Valenti, President, Motion Picture Association of America (MPA). Mr. Valenti has assured MPA's assistance to curb piracy in the U.S. FICCI, in association with the Indian Film Exporters Association proposes to set up an anti-piracy cell in the U.S.

Selling of the Time slot by DD

†74. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the company, alongwith the amount, for which Doordarshan had sold the time slot for 52 weeks for Saturday night films in January, 2000.

(b) what was the outstanding against the company and the reasons for not recovering the dues before selling the time slot.

(c) the loss incurred by Doordarshan in selling the time slot without recovering the outstanding amount; and

(d) what effective action Government have taken for fixing the responsibility by conducting an enquiry and taking punitive action against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) As informed by the Prasar Bharati, the slot for telecast of Saturday Hindi feature film was given to M/s Shree Madhav Poly Products & Trading Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai from 22nd January 2000. The minimum guarantee per film for the slot was Rs. 60 lakhs.

(b) and (c) As informed by the Prasar Bharati, there were no outstanding against the Company when the time slot was allotted to it. Bank Guarantee of Rs. 60 lakh per film (100% of M.G.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

amount) was obtained from the Company before telecast of each film.

(d) Does not arise.

Introduction of 24-hour FM radio channel

†75. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken a decision to introduce a 24-hour FM radio channel during last year;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the same, so far; and

(c) by when Government would like to introduce the broadcasting of such channel alongwith the number of hours during which the news will be broadcast?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) In July 1999, the Government had taken a decision to open FM Radio Broadcasting Service to the private sector.

(b) Tenders were invited in October 1999 for 40 centres, in Phase I. Letters of intent were issued to 26 companies in August 2000. 16 companies have signed the agreement and submitted Bank Guarantee. One FM Radio Station at Bangalore started operation recently.

(c) The Programme Content for private FM broadcasts excludes news and current affairs and covers only areas like music entertainment, information and education.

Films funded by the Ministry

76. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of films funded by her Ministry during the last two years to create social awareness;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.